Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

JERUSA 00850 231611Z PAGE 01 ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PA-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 /061 W

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 588

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL JERUSALEM 850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IS, JO

SUBJ: DETENTION OF WEST BANK ACTIVIST

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

- 1. WELL-KNOWN WEST BANK JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST RAYMONDA TAWIL WAS TAKEN FROM HER RAMALLAH HOME INTO CUSTODY AT ABOUT 1:00 A.M. MARCH 23 BY ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES. ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY, SHE WAS TOLD TO TAKE HER PASSPORT AND AN EXTRA COAT. NO FORMAL CHARGES WERE MADE, BUT THE FAMILY WAS TOLD HER DETENTION WAS CONNECTED WITH HER PRESENCE AT THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF AN ANTI-ISRAELI STUDENT DEMONSTRATION LAST WEEK IN RAMALLAH.
- 2. MRS. TAWIL'S ISRAELI LAWYER TOLD FAMILY AFTERNOON MARCH 23 THAT SHE WAS STILL BEING HELD IN RAMALLAH AND THAT DEPORTATION WAS NOT EXPECTED. WE UNDERSTAND UPI IS REPORTING THAT MRS. TAWIL WILL BE CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND DISTURBANCES, BUT FAMILY HAS NOT YET BEEN SO INFORMED. CONFIDENTIAL.

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LAWYER EXPECTS TO VISIT THE ACCUSED MARCH 24, ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

3. COMMENT: (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) GIVEN RAYMONDA'S EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND SHELLI-TYPE ISRAELIS, ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE MILGOV WILL BE DONE IN THE BRIGHT GLARE OF WORLD-WIDE PUBLICITY. WHILE IT IS CERTAIN THAT RAYMONDA HAS MAINTAINED EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE PLO (AS ISRAELI MK'S HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO OCCASIONALLY) AND THAT SHE RARELY MISSES A DEMONSTRATION, WE DEEM IT UNLIKELY THAT SHE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN A TERRORIST OPERATION IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE PLO'S INTEREST IN MAINTAINING OPERATIONS'S SECRECY. (END CONFIDENTIAL)

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Subject: DETENTION OF WEST BANK ACTIVIST (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IS, JO

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